104-10126-10377

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20 July 1977

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77-0007/37

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

22 JUL 1977

FROM : George L. Cary
Legislative Counsel

SUBJECT : Meeting with House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) Chairman and Members - 21 July 1977

1. (U) Action Requested: None; for information only.

2. (C) Background: The subject meeting was called for in correspondence between yourself and Representative Louis Stokes (D., Ohio), Chairman, House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) in May and early June of this year. Copies of this correspondence are attached. This meeting should be viewed as a prelude to the commencement of the actual Committee investigation into the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. About 40 members of the HSCA staff have been investigated by the FBI and, based on these investigations, the Director of Security has determined that these staffers meet the clearance standards of DCID 1/14. We have provided copies of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) to the HSCA staff and we are in the process of negotiating the NDA, which would be signed by all staffers, but we have had no negotiations yet on the MOU.

3. (IUO) Since Representative Louis Stokes assumed responsibility as Chairman of the Committee in April 1977, he has displayed an extremely serious and businesslike attitude regarding Agency relations with the Committee. It is also clear that he is actively in charge of the HSCA and is managing it in the same manner. In addition, he is very concerned about security and, in fact, has requested Agency advice and guidance on such subjects as physical and personnel security.

4. (IUO) It is equally clear that Chairman Stokes has chosen as the Committee Chief Counsel and Staff Director--Mr. G. Robert Blakey--a man who believes in and is comfortable with the Chairman's views.

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5. (IUO) Four others expected to be present at the meeting:

Representative Richardson Preyer (D., N. Car.) - In charge of the investigation of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Delegate Walter E. Fauntroy (D., D.C.) - In charge of the investigation of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Representative Samuel L. Devine (R., Ohio) - Ranking Minority Member, HSCA.

Mr. G. Robert Blakey - Chief Counsel and Staff Director, HSCA.

6. (IUO) Recommendation: It is recommended that you state to the Chairman that you are fully prepared to cooperate with them in their investigation. In this regard it is hoped that quick agreement can be reached between yourself and the Chairman through staff negotiations on the NDA and MOU, since you need satisfactory procedures to account for the responsibility imposed upon you by statute to protect sensitive intelligence sources and methods from unauthorized disclosure.

George L. Cary

Attachment:
As stated